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'You, sir, are a monster'

Tori Stafford.
Gripping statement written by her brother leaves killer in tears at sentencing hearing

The powerful and angry words of the judge presiding over Michael Rafferty's case rang through the courtroom Tuesday — "twisted," "deviant," "child rapist" — but it was the words of Victoria (Tori) Stafford's brother that left the largest impact, even on the "monster" himself.

When eight-year-old Tori was abducted on April 8, 2009, her brother Daryn was just 10 years old. Several of Tori's family members gave victim-impact statements at Rafferty's formal sentencing in London, Ont., talking about the pain her death has caused, but they all kept coming back to Daryn, the big brother who feels he was supposed to protect Tori.

"No hugs, no 'See you later,' no goodbyes, just a part of my heart ripped out," Daryn wrote in his statement. "My sister was the only person I had to talk to, someone that felt what I felt, cried when I cried, laughed when I laughed, and now I feel alone, like the world is playing a sick trick on me. But it's not. This is my reality."

Rafferty, who was found guilty on Friday of first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping, cried and wiped tears from his eyes as a Crown attorney read Daryn's statement.

Superior Court Judge Thomas Heeney ordered Rafferty to stand up as he said now that the presumption of innocence has been stripped away, it has been revealed who Rafferty truly is: "A child abductor, a child rapist and a child murderer."

"You, sir, are a monster."

Rafferty was led out of the courtroom to a life behind bars. He will be eligible to apply for parole after serving 25 years.

He was also sentenced to 10 years to be served concurrently for sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

Rafferty will join Terri-Lynne McClintic, his ex-lover and partner in the gruesome crime, in being sentenced to life in prison.

McClintic pleaded guilty two years ago to first-degree murder, admitting that she lured Tori away with the promise of seeing a dog and delivered the child to Rafferty for repeated sexual assaults.

No one will ever know whether the jury believed if Rafferty or McClintic wielded the hammer that killed the girl, whether they thought McClintic orchestrated the sick plot and Rafferty helped or vice-versa, whether they thought the abduction was random or targeted, or whether the sequence of events was planned all along — but the end result was the same for Tori.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In this artist's sketch, Michael Rafferty is shown in court during victim-impact statements in London, Ont., Tuesday. Rafferty maintained his innocence Tuesday in the brutal abduction, rape and killing of Victoria (Tori) Stafford.
TAMMY HOY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NEWS

On the web

Tween blasts banks

The latest tirade against Canada's banking system isn't coming from a leading economist, but from a 12-year-old girl. Posted by her father, Cambridge's Victoria Grant's lectures have been making the web rounds and making headlines. Watch the pint-sized pundit at metronews.ca

Same-sex marriage in retrospect

A U.S. man shares his memories of late partner, Thomas Bridegroom, outlining how same-sex marriage could have changed their lives. Shane Bitney Crone's YouTube video detailing their struggles has received more than two million views. Watch at metronews.ca

Mobile news

Barack Obama is holding his own when it comes to pop culture. The U.S. president passed ABC's The View's pop quiz, proving he's keeping up with the Kardashians and knows his superheroes. Scan the code to see if he passed the Fifty Shades of Grey test.

Nightclubs, dating and the secrets of 7 deadly women

Dark comedy.
Winnipegger's first novel an intimate look into the dating scene

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

When Winnipeg nightclub promoter Jamie Hall decided to write a book, he picked a subject he's well versed with — women.

"It's about dating disasters and women," Hall explained of his first novel, 7 Deadly Women. "It's an inspired fiction tale about a guy that dates, and is having a really hard time of it."

The book, published in February, chronicles the adventures and intimate details of fictional nightclub promoter Jason Mytez's quest to understand seven different types of women. Hall calls the book a dark comedy and says it's not based on his own life.

"As a first-time author you want to stick with a little bit of what you know," he told Metro over lunch. "Plus, nightclubs were a good setting for him to meet all the different women."

While it's not autobiographical, Hall admits he drew inspiration for parts of his book from experiences from his own life — a life that would make a good book on its own.

Hall has worked as a DJ, started a record label, hosted a nationally broadcast television show (CityTV's Club Life), and oh yeah, had private meetings with both President Barack Obama and former president Bill Clinton.

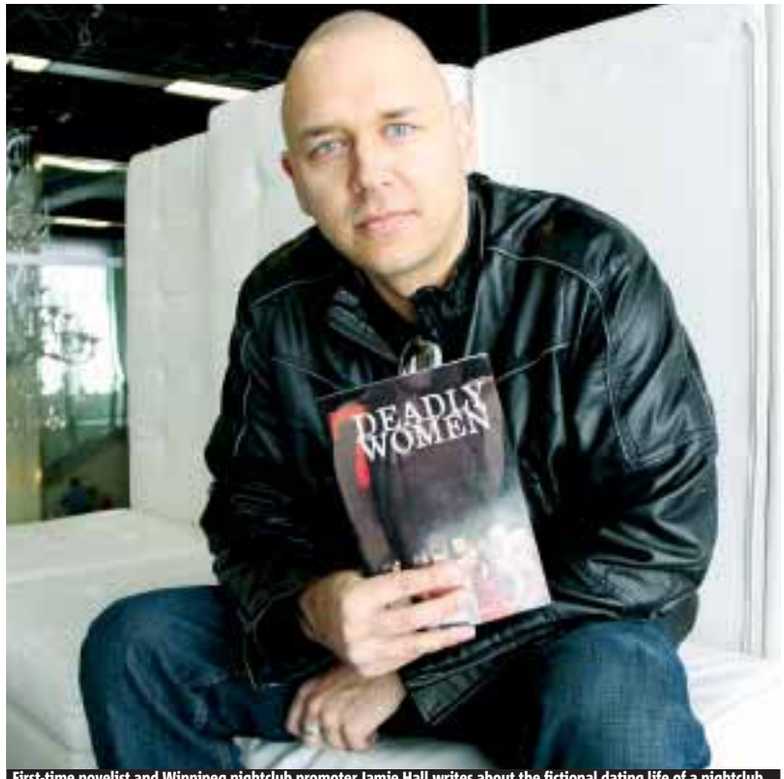
"They're both really cool guys," Hall said of the world powerhouses he got to meet while working on Obama's campaign in 2008. "I had moved to Vegas to shoot the second season of Club Life and it was like the whole country was depressed down there.

"When Obama started pulling ahead it felt uplifting and I wanted to be a part of it, so I quit the show and started campaigning."

Hall is back living in Winnipeg now, and as well as shooting a pilot episode for a local late-night talk show he hopes will get picked up, he has begun writing another novel.

Copies of 7 Deadly Women are available at Chapters and McNally Robinson in Winnipeg, and online through iBooks and Amazon.

For more about the book and to see what else Hall's been up to, check out projectsbyjamie.com.



First-time novelist and Winnipeg nightclub promoter Jamie Hall writes about the fictional dating life of a nightclub promoter in his dark comedy, 7 Deadly Women. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

A click away from renewing, borrowing

Boopsie, the company creating the new mobile app for Winnipeg's libraries, has plenty of experience in this market. Above, an example of an app created for another city. GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOOPSIE

Renewing library books, searching the catalogue, and accessing ebooks are all features coming to smartphones through a new mobile app for Winnipeg's libraries.

The app, which is expected to launch sometime in June, has been in development for the past six months.

Theresa Lomas, administrative co-ordinator of information and virtual services for the City of Winnipeg's Library Division, said the app provides another option for library patrons to access the catalogue and website.

"We're just trying to be responsive to what our patrons want," said Lomas. "And we've had quite a few people say they'd like a mobile app."

Lomas said the company behind the app, Boopsie, has plenty of experience producing apps specifically for libraries.

The total cost of the project has not yet been tallied.

The addition of ebooks, said Lomas, is one of aspects she's most looking forward to.

"We wanted to have really good access to ebooks and the mobile app will provide one-click access to ebooks," she added.

Library patrons interested in downloading the app should check the library's website, winnipeg.ca/library, to find out when it will officially be available.

In the meantime, the library launched a mobile version of its website earlier this month to make it easier for smartphone users to view the site over their internet browsers. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

For more local news visit metronews.ca/winnipeg

Street Crime Unit

Two charged after weapons seizure

Two Winnipeg men with street gang ties face charges after police found weapons including a sword and a rifle with an attached bayonet in a Glenwood-area home Monday.

The Winnipeg police's Street Crime Unit executed a search warrant at a home in the 100 block of Vivian Avenue around 11:10 p.m.

Items seized include the bayoneted rifle, another rifle with ammunition, a stun gun, an air rifle, the sword and a small amount of marijuana. A 22-year-old man and 23-year-old man are facing several weapons-related charges. METRO

Const. Jason Michalyshen shows media weapons and ammunition seized Monday. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Search warrant

Grow-op bust leads to one arrest

A man is facing a number of drug-related charges after police raided a grow operation in a home within the 1000 block of Dugald Road on Monday.

The Winnipeg Police Service Street Crime Unit executed a search warrant at the home around 6 p.m. and arrested a 32-year-old man.

Police seized 279 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of $312,480, growing equipment worth about $6,000, and a small amount of cash. The man faces charges of production of a controlled substance, possessing a substance for the purpose of trafficking, and possession of the proceeds of crime. METRO

Investors Group Field

High winds knock down wall at new stadium

Wind has caused problems for Investors Group Field yet again, as the Winnipeg Blue Bombers confirmed that strong gusts knocked over a wall at the new stadium Monday night.

In a statement, Bomber CEO Garth Buchko said the damage was to the administrative section of the building and will not affect the Bombers' plan to play their first game at the new stadium in September.

"We have been made aware of the wind damage at our new stadium site and have been informed that it occurred to our administration building and not to the actual stadium itself," said Buchko.

"While this may affect the timing of moving our business side into the new stadium due to repairs to the building, this will not set us back in our plan to open Sept. 21, or with best circumstances, Sept. 9."

High winds have already caused problems for Investors Group Field, causing the Bombers to push back their opening game at the new stadium to Sept. 21, when they had originally hoped to open the facility in July.

DAVE BAXTER/METRO

Town of Badger

Fires spreading in SE Manitoba

A ban on campfires and restricted travel in southeastern Manitoba is expected to continue as high winds and little rain wreak havoc on firefighting efforts.

The fire near the town of Badger has grown to 5,300 hectares, said the province.

Efforts to keep the fire away from the town have been successful, and more than 70 firefighters, nine bulldozers, four water bombers, four single engine air tankers and fire helicopters have been employed.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Report cards to now reflect kids' behaviour

Three different formats. Minister says there were few complaints about the clarity of the old report cards, but that change is good

DAVE BAXTER
winnipeg@metronews.ca

2013 deadline

- The new report cards will be mandatory in public schools in Manitoba by 2013.
- Private schools are not required to use them but Nancy Allan says "they are more than happy to join us."

Minister of Education Nancy Allan says Manitoba needs new, clearer report cards, although she admitted there were no major problems with the old ones and has no idea how much the new ones will cost.

At the unveiling of the new reporting system on Tuesday, Allan said that she feels that sometimes change is necessary for students and parents even if the old system is working.

"I'm a change agent. I love change," said Allan.

When asked about the costs that will be involved in the new report card, Allan said she didn't know what the figures would be.

"That's a very good question. We will get back to you on that."

The new report cards, which will be mandatory for all Manitoba schools by the fall of 2013, will see three different formats based on children's age. Students in Grade 6 and younger will not get a percentage grade.

One of the main changes is that there will be specific sections for both academic progress and student behavior.

Hinda Ibrahim is the parent of two boys who have graduated and one that is still in the school system. She says the behavior aspect is the most important part of the new report card.

"I'm not worried academically because they are fine," said Ibrahim.

"The behavior is what makes me put my hand on my heart and say 'How will it affect their life?'

"Kids will misbehave and now we will know when it happens."

Sagkeeng's Finest brings modern flare to traditional dance

A trio of teens from rural Manitoba are the ultimate winners of Canada's Got Talent. Sagkeeng First Nation's Vincent O'Laney, 17, Brandon Courchene, 18, and his brother, Dallas Courchene, 17, won the nation-wide talent show Monday night performing as Sagkeeng's Finest, a traditional aboriginal dance troupe with a decidedly modern flare. The trio won $100,000 cash, a new Nissan CT-R, a trip to Tobago, a chance to perform in Las Vegas and a spot on CityTV's New Year's Eve show. They will perform at the Legislative Building on Thursday at 12:30 p.m. METRO/CITYTV

Lake Manitoba. Man missing after boat capsizes

A 22-year-old man is missing after his boat capsized in Tuesday's windstorm.

The man, along with a 25-year-old man, were out on Lake Manitoba near Langruth at about 8 p.m., said Amaranth RCMP. High winds caught the pair unaware and overturned their small boat.

The 25-year-old was able to swim to shore, but the other has not been found. The 25-year-old was taken to Portage General Hospital and released.

Search and rescue personnel, including a Hercules aircraft from 17 Wing Winnipeg, were deployed to search for the man. Personnel are patrolling the waterfront area near where the pair overturned.

The boat has also not been found.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Skateboarder dies

Cabbie charged

Police have laid a murder charge after a skateboarder died following a collision involving a taxi in downtown Toronto. The victim is Ralph Bissonnette, 28. Adib Ibrahim, 43, is charged with second-degree murder.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Still a jail guard

From Andre to Andrea

Toronto Don Jail guard Andrea Roussel is the only jail guard in Ontario to keep working after gender reassignment. She started the job two decades ago as Andre. Since surgery, Roussel continues her job.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Andrea Roussel, Toronto Don Jail guard, still working after gender reassignment. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cops found chemicals

'Plausible' chemicals for rocketry hobby: Judge

G20 activist, Byron Sonne, 39, has been acquitted on all charges, after a judge said the Crown failed to prove he would make bombs. The self-described security geek said the chemicals were for his rocketry hobby, an explanation that Ontario Superior Court Justice Nancy Spies said was plausible. Sonne also maintained he was trying to expose gaps in the $1-billion summit's security.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Byron Sonne gestures as he leaves court with lawyer Joe Di Luca. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bomb aimed at ex-Colombian minister kills two, injures 19

Terrorism. Driver and bodyguard killed; conservative Fernando Londono, interior and justice minister from 2002-2003, survived

A bomb targeting a former Colombian interior minister killed two people and injured at least 19 others in the heart of Bogota's uptown commercial district on Tuesday.

President Juan Manuel Santos said the former minister, Fernando Londono, was hurt but was out of danger, and Bogota Mayor Gustavo Petro tweeted that "a person committed the attack while walking."

Petro also tweeted, without further detail, that someone had been arrested, but officials did not immediately ascribe blame for the attack.

Santos said in a brief televised declaration that Londono's driver and a police bodyguard were killed in the bombing. Londono's armoured SUV was attacked just before midday on Calle 74 a half block from Caracas Avenue.

The district is packed with office buildings, stores, restaurants and banks.

TV images showed Londono, 78, being escorted, walking but stunned, from the vehicle in a suit and tie with blood stains on part of his chest.

One of his bodyguards holds a gun. In addition to the SUV, adjacent vehicles were badly damaged by the bomb.

"Fortunately, Dr. Londono is stable. He's in the hospital," said Santos.

Former Vice-President Francisco Santos, a radio news director and first cousin of the current president, visited Londono in the Clinica del Country hospital and said the former minister had some shrapnel wounds and was saddened by the deaths of his bodyguards.

City health director Guillermo Jaramillo told Caracol Radio that at least 19 people were hurt.

Earlier Tuesday, police said they had deactivated a car bomb in the centre of the city and said they presumed it was from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the country's main leftist rebel group.

Londono served as interior and justice minister from 2002-2003. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The scene shortly after a bomb exploded in Bogota on Tuesday, killing two people. The attack targeted a former minister. RICARDO MAZALAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

True love story: Aerobatic pilot marries prince

Jordan's Princess Basmah al Hussein, formerly Basmah Hasan of Stratford, Ont., and husband Prince Hamzah Al Hussein. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A barnstorming Stratford, Ont., woman with a daredevil streak and a passion for adventure has quietly become a member of Jordan's royal family.

Aerobatic pilot Basmah Hasan became Princess Basmah in January after she wed Prince Hamzah of Jordan's Hashemite royal family.

Hamzah is the son of the late King Hussein and his American-born wife, Queen Noor, and is a senior officer in Jordan's forces. He is the half-brother of the current King. The couple met while 33-year-old Hasan was working as the chief pilot at the Royal Aero Sports Club of Jordan last year.

She had blazed a trail in the skies over the Arab world by becoming the first certified aerobatic pilot and a certified glider pilot in the country.

The prince, 32, was a fixed-wing pilot trained at Britain's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

"She fell in love with this man, madly in love with him, they're very much in love," says sister Yasmen Hasan of Ottawa, the family's spokesperson.

"You can just see it. When you're in the room with them it's electric. She happened to fall in love with a man who's a prince, but it's the man she's with, that's who she's dedicated her life to, and him to her, and he just happened to have that title and come from that family."

Hasan moved to Jordan in 2004, leaving her mathematics studies at the University of Western Ontario to pursue a dream of becoming a pilot.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Humble and intelligent':

"She's a totally adventurous person, but she's the most humble, graceful, gracious, intelligent person you're ever going to meet. She fits perfectly with the (royal) family," says Princess Basmah's sister Yasmen, of Ottawa.

Her parents Mike and Halloul are from affluent Jordanian families. The four children were born here.

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U.S. forces

Female soldiers set for combat

Female soldiers this week are moving into new jobs in once all-male units as the U.S. Army ends barriers to keep them away from battle. The policy change is being tested in nine brigades.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murder trial

Israeli accused of stabbing spree

Prosecutors in Michigan have rested their case in the first murder trial for an Israeli immigrant accused of a deadly stabbing spree two years ago.

Fourteen people were stabbed in and around Flint in the summer of 2010, and five died.

Elias Abuelazam is charged with three murders and six attempted murders.

One survivor, Bill Fisher, testified Tuesday how he was stabbed by a motorist who had asked him for help. Fisher pulled up his shirt to show jurors his stab wound and identified Abuelazam as his attacker.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steve Vaillancourt was eventually allowed back into debate.

JIM COLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nazi salute

Republican says sorry for 'Sieg Heil'

A New Hampshire lawmaker, Steve Vaillancourt, has apologized for shouting the Nazi salute "Sieg Heil!" during legislative debate. He was removed from the House Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Identity theft

Twenty years of deception?

A Newark Liberty airport security supervisor pleaded not guilty Tuesday to identity theft. His alleged offences took place over 20 years. Identity theft carries a maximum 10 years jail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Massacre to shine light on Syria?

Now UN team may tell world. Observers nearby as troops fire on funeral mourners, 20 feared dead

A United Nations convoy of observers was blasted by a roadside bomb in Syria on Tuesday.

It happened just minutes after regime forces gunned down mourners at a funeral procession nearby, witnesses said. Twenty people may have been killed.

It was not clear how close the observers were to the funeral shootings. But if confirmed, a regime attack on civilians directly in front of the observers could put pressure on them to describe publicly what they are seeing in Syria.

Burst of violence

"This is a real massacre and it took place in the presence of UN observers."

Rami Abdul-Rahman, human rights official.

They report back to the UN but have not publicized their findings.

A video of the bomb attack was posted online by activists. There were no injuries.

"The front of a UN car took a direct hit," said activist Fadi al-Yassin.

"Everyone ran in panic but the observers stayed in the car. People tried to talk to them but they wouldn't even open their windows."

The two attacks took place in the northern town of Khan Sheikhoun.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec protests kick into high gear

A student protester puts the boot in during a pitched battle with police Tuesday at a junior college north of Montreal in the provincial furor over tuition hikes. Police fired chemical irritants at about 100 protesters who were blocking students from entering the college. In Montreal, 19 people were arrested Tuesday after access was blocked to the Jacques Cartier Bridge, a key commuter link. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Male alone. Two female giraffes die after break-in

Two female giraffes at a zoo in central Poland died after vandals broke into the facility.

And now officials are trying to find a companion for their last remaining giraffe — a male named Tofik.

The break-in at the zoo in Lodz city occurred Saturday night, and the unidentified hooligans overturned signs and threw benches and garbage cans into animal runs, including one near where the three giraffes were.

One of the female giraffes — three-year-old Suri — was found dead early Sunday.

Tests indicated it died of stress and a heart attack, zoo director Ryszard Topola said Tuesday.

The other female giraffe, six-year-old Hana, was found dead early Monday, and Topola said the sudden stress worsened its ongoing treatment for parasites.

Six-year-old Tofik is left alone at the zoo after hooligan rampage.

MARIAN ZUBRZYCKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"These are wild animals and very skittish," said Topola, so there is little doubt that the fear contributed to their deaths.

It's hoped other European zoos can provide a companion for Tofik.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biting research. Deadly fish a human tooth fairy?

Human teeth can be engineered to regenerate, thanks to one of the world's most poisonous fish.

British scientists have been studying the pufferfish beak and have found it is uniquely resilient, generating new teeth every two weeks for the animal's lifetime.

They believe the beak provides a model for creating a system of continuous tooth replacement in humans.

"The pufferfish beak is completely unique," project leader Dr. Gareth Fraser of the University of Sheffield told Metro.

"The main thing is we can use it to identify the gene network for tooth replacement.

"We can see how nature makes new teeth and about the genes that govern that process."

Stem cells in the jaw control tooth growth, and they stop producing in humans after the adult set.

KIERON MONKS/METRO WORLD NEWS

Lethal

The pufferfish is believed to be the second-most poisonous vertebrate in the world, after the golden poison frog.

- **DANGER.** Certain pufferfish organs, such as the liver, are highly toxic to most animals when eaten.
- **SKILL.** The meat is considered a delicacy in Japan, Korea and China when prepared by chefs who know what parts are safe to eat.

Breivik case shock. Man on fire outside the court

A disturbed man set himself on fire Tuesday outside the Oslo court where Anders Breivik is being tried for the Norway massacre.

The man walked up to police with flames shooting from his sweater and hat. He appeared to yell "Shoot me, it hurts" as officers tore off the sweater.

He was taken to hospital with serious, but non-life threatening injuries.

Breivik admits setting off a car bomb that killed eight people and then killing 69 people in a shooting rampage on July 22.

Before Tuesday's drama, the man had stopped by the office of Norwegian lawyer Bente Roli, where he dropped off an envelope with "confused" notes, Roli said.

"He was disturbed. Very much. He has nothing to do with the July 22 events,'' Roli said. The man was set to undergo surgery early Wednesday for his injuries, police said.

A victim?

"He was psychologically unstable and thought he was the victim of a conspiracy."

Lawyer Bente Roli

They described him as a Norwegian citizen of foreign origin, and with no apparent links to the Breivik trial.

"Not as far as we know," said police spokesperson Unni Turid Groendal.

Prosecutors said the proceedings were not interrupted by the drama outside the courthouse. The trial is scheduled to run until the end of June.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feds send out mixed signals for EI changes

Suitable employment.
No plan to force workers to take 'any job available', human resources minister tells the Commons

The Harper government sent confusing signals Tuesday about coming changes to employment insurance rules, declaring in favour of a hard-line approach while indicating the new measures will be moderate.

Human Resources Minister Diane Finley told the House of Commons there's no plan to force jobless workers receiving EI benefits to take any job available, as the finance minister seemed to suggest the day before.

"Canadians will be expected to take jobs appropriate to their skill level in their area," she said.

That is decidedly different from Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's comments on Monday, when he said he was brought up to believe that "any job is a good job" and that the current EI rules are a disincentive to work.

Canadians won't know exactly what the government has in mind until new regulations on defining "suitable employment" are unveiled in the next few months.

And Finley agreed with Flaherty that one of the problems facing the economy is labour shortages, even though the current jobless rate of 7.3 per cent is more than a full point higher than prior to the 2008 recession.

In response to a question in the Commons, Prime Minister Stephen Harper appeared to back his finance minister.

"Let's face it, Canada is facing unprecedented shortages of labour and skills, so we need to help Canadians who are unemployed get back to work quickly."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murdoch's media star charged

One of Rupert Murdoch's most trusted lieutenants, former U.K. tabloid editor Rebekah Brooks, seen leaving her lawyer's office in London with husband Charlie Brooks, was charged Tuesday alongside five others with conspiring to hide evidence of phone hacking. The 43-year-old Brooks, who quit as News International chief executive in July, faces three separate allegations of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice — an offence which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The charges against Brooks, her husband and four aides are the first prosecutions since police reopened inquiries 18 months ago into wrongdoing by the country's scandal-hungry press.

SEAN DEMPSEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook. Raised IPO values company at more than $100 billion US

Already expected to be the largest-ever initial public offering for an Internet company, Facebook is making its IPO even bigger.

On Tuesday, the world's largest online social network increased the planned price range for its stock to $34 to $38 US per share in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. That's up from its previous range of $28 to $35 US. At the upper limit of $38, the sale would raise about $12.8 billion US. The move, which values Facebook as high as $104 billion US, comes amid growing investor excitement about the offering. Analysts are comparing the frenzy surrounding Facebook's IPO to Google's in 2004, though in sheer size the latter pales in comparison.

At the same time, half of Americans think the expected value for Facebook is too high, according to a new Associated Press-CNBC poll conducted before the company raised its expected stock price on Tuesday. Only a third of those surveyed said they think Facebook's expected value is appropriate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"This is a deal that literally must work, in that it is so high-profile."

Scott Sweet, owner of advisory firm IPOBoutique

Market Minute

DOLLAR 99.32¢ (-0.39¢)

Natural gas: $2.50 US (+6.9¢)
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TSX 11,343.05 (-145.48)

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AND WE THOUGHT THIS STUFF WAS ONLY IN MOVIES

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

While the rest of us are lined up at the multiplex to watch CGI superheroes toss CGI arch-villains around in The Avengers, the real nerds have, as you might expect, already moved on.

To something called "quantum entanglement."

Quantum entanglement is weird. Somehow, subatomic particles act on each other and it doesn't matter if they're in the same room or at opposite ends of the Milky Way. As soon as you know that one is "up," you know the other is "down" and vice-versa. That's an oversimplification, but this entire column is an oversimplification. Trust me, you really don't want the unabridged version, anyway.

Quantum entanglement is so weird it blew Einstein's mind. He called it "spooky action at a distance" and thought it invalidated quantum theory until physicist John Bell proved it actually happens, thereby inventing Bell's Theorem.

Weird as it may be, quantum entanglement has fired up the imaginations of scientists everywhere who think that someday it will mean super-fast quantum computers, instant communications across vast distances, time-travel and even teleportation, as in "Beam me up, Scotty."

Beam me up, Scotty

As we speak, on science blogs everywhere, people are earnestly debating the safety hazards associated with teleportation — whether or not it's the actual Captain Kirk who arrives back on the Enterprise or a quantum copy.

As we speak, on science blogs everywhere, people are earnestly debating the safety hazards associated with teleportation — whether or not it's the actual Captain Kirk who arrives back on the Enterprise or a quantum copy. The real Kirk has died and is left behind on Regulus III — his quantum copy just doesn't know it.

Back on the real Earth, progress is being made on untangling quantum entanglement. One group of Chinese scientists has managed to entangle eight photons (particles of light), and just this week another group of Chinese scientists announced that they have managed to go where no geek has gone before, teleporting an entangled pair of quantum bits, or qubits, 97 kilometres across a lake.

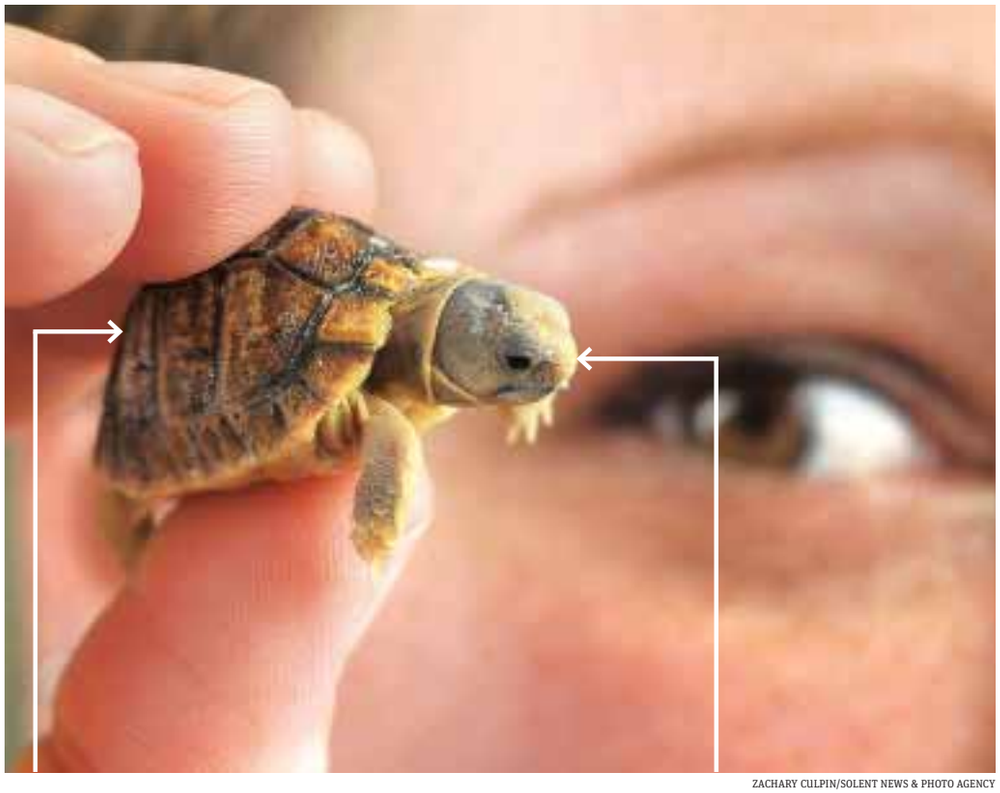
This is a big deal, as the damn qubits keep unravelling or unentangling or whatever, due to problems not encountered in theorems, such as imperfections in optics and air turbulence. It may seem like a small step for humankind (actually really small: sub-atomic), but how long could it be before we can instantly beam William Shatner from one Priceline hotel to the other?

You have to love this stuff, even if it never means you'll be able to honeymoon on Shiralea VI and be back in time for work on Monday. As you think about this idea, of real matter acting in lockstep mysteriously across time and space, you get a glimpse of just how wonderful and mysterious the universe really is.

And you don't have to pay for parking or popcorn.

Boldly going where no man has gone before. CONTRIBUTED

Walk like an Egyptian turtle



ZACHARY CULPIN/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO AGENCY

Saving a species

Endangered tiny tortoises born

It's only the size of a coin, but this tortoise is priceless. Four hatchlings of the critically-endangered Egyptian tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*) have been born at Marwell Wildlife, near Winchester, Hampshire, south England. Only just over a week old, the smallest of the youngsters weighed just 3.1 grams after hatching.

METRO WORLD NEWS

In numbers

2.14

centimetres is the approximate height of the first Egyptian tortoise hatchling, the same diameter as a small coin.

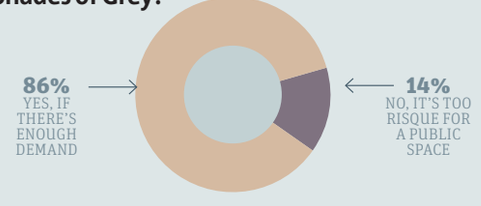
Facts and figures

- **Live long but still small.** Adults live for up to 50 years. These tortoises can grow to around 15 centimetres long and weigh 500 grams. This species of tortoise is the smallest in the northern hemisphere. The speckled padloper of South Africa is the world's smallest tortoise.
- **Egyptian by name only.** It's believed the Egyptian tortoise no longer exists in its namesake country. The species disappeared there some twenty years ago due to aridifcation of land, overgrazing and pet trade over-collecting.
- **In decline.** "Their numbers have declined severely in the last 30 years," Sherif Baha el-Din, scientific adviser at the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, told ABC News. He said a survey in Egypt in 1994 had failed to locate any wild tortoises at all. "They are very ancient animals and haven't changed much over the years, which makes them more susceptible to problems."

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should libraries stock the erotic tale Fifty Shades of Grey?



Twitter

@Omega_:
Another day of sociopathic #Winnipeg drivers. This morning, featuring someone pulling into oncoming traffic on my left as I go to turn left!

@davidpleonard:
I realise that other than Riel and the General Strike, and flooding, and the arts, I don't really know much about Winnipeg. Learnin' time!

@Playt3r:
Someone just asked if we traveled from Australia for the concert. #no #Winnipeg

@mattsnothere:
Winds knocking down a wall at Investors Group Stadium last night. Someone just said "Well, here's to another year of construction." #winnipeg

@robyn_brar:
Who needs stop lights when we have Winnipeg Cadets? No lights on Pembina. #WinnipegProblems

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Unlikely rom-com

Dictator forces you to be entertained

The Dictator

Director. Larry Charles

Stars: Sacha Baron Cohen, Anna Faris

Although it's slightly more conventional than his breakout hit Borat, funnyman Sacha Baron Cohen's The Dictator is also only slightly less obscene and outrageous. Starring as the fascist despot of fictional Wadiya, Cohen's idiotic oppressor mistakenly gets lost in America and develops an unlikely romance with a fuzzy-underarmed feminist (Anna Faris). Certainly more plot-driven than his previous pictures, The Dictator is also more predictable. Still, with Cohen's uncanny ability to bring heart and hilarity to even the most offensive of characters, The Dictator commands its audience with an iron (and at times ironic) fist.

STEVE GOW

The Dictator listings:

Grant Park 8 Cinemas
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating
Wed-Thu 3:40-6:55-9:30

Landmark Towne Cinema 8
Wed-Thu 7:15-9:15

SilverCity Polo Park
No Passes Wed-Thu 11:50-2:05-4:20-6:35-8:50-11

SilverCity St. Vital
No Passes Wed-Thu 1-3:15-5:30-7:40-9:55

While brushing his teeth, Norman pretends that he is a zombie in the children's animated feature ParaNorman. HANDOUT

The not-so-normal making of ParaNorman

Stop-motion technology. Elaborate, painstaking animation gives this children's monster movie a gritty but stunning feel

CAROLYN MORRIS
scene@metronews.ca

It's a story of a little boy who is bullied at school. It would be universal, except that Norman is able to see ghosts and zombies.

And the 3-D movie is shot using labour-intensive stop-motion technology. At a time when computer-generated imagery is creating stunning and elaborate animation, the tactile quality of ParaNorman is refreshingly unusual.

Part comedy, part horror pastiche, ParaNorman (in theatres August 17) is produced by Laika, the studio that made Coraline, a 2009 3-D stop-motion children's film, nominated for an Academy Award for best animated feature.

ParaNorman writer and co-director Chris Butler has a soft spot for the paranormal, having grown up on The Goonies, Ghostbusters and Scooby-Doo.

"I think there is something thrilling to kids about monsters. As long as you're saying that there's a monster and it can be beaten. I think that's important," he says.

The directors wanted a raw, gritty animation style. And the studio focused on real-life materials to achieve it. In its puppet and set-construction departments, fine artists, jewelers, engineers, and even chemists crafted the characters and scenes.

While the movie boasts some high-profile voices — including young stars Kodi Smit-McPhee and Anna Kendrick — much of the "acting" is shared by an invisible cast of about 25 animators who work alone, manipulating the puppets on separate sets, and sometimes shooting as few as 15 or 16 frames in an entire day (less than one second of footage). On a good day, they'll shoot several seconds.

Director duo

Sam Fell and Chris Butler (writer) teamed up to co-direct this children's film.

- According to Butler, the original idea was "John Carpenter-meets-John Hughes." Carpenter directed horror classic Halloween, while Hughes directed Ferris Bueller's Day Off.
- Co-director Fell compared the film's look to William Eggleston's photography of objects like junk in a gutter, or a chainlink fence.

2 SCENE

Awards-show accident

Michaels gets Tony Awards settlement

Bret Michaels and organizers of the Tony Awards have settled a lawsuit filed by the rocker after a 2009 incident in which he was hit in the head with a set piece and suffered injuries that contributed to a brain hemorrhage that nearly killed him.

The confidential settlement also covers Michaels' claims against CBS, which aired the show — and the mishap. The Poison frontman blamed the network for airing the moment and claimed Tony Awards producers never warned him there would be a set change after he and his band performed Nothin' But a Good Time.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Kennedy Center to honour Ellen DeGeneres with Mark Twain award, the nation's top humour prize.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Maybe Jay-Z should run for President

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

When Jay-Z went on CNN yesterday and was asked about Obama's recent public support of gay marriage, he didn't necessarily say anything groundbreaking.

We're all humans, we're wasting our time talking about this, love happens: you've heard this before.

But, that said, everything sounds so much cooler — so obviously a good idea — when it's delivered with a little Jay-Z swagger. This guy should consider running for office — or calling us:

"I've always thought it as something that was still holding the country back. What people do in their own homes is their business."

Of course it is. I bet your home is nice. It seems like it would smell really nice and have good snacks. Swoon.

"You can choose to love whoever you love."

Like you, for instance. I mean, if Beyonce's cool with it. She's probably not. Forget this part happened.

"It's really not about votes, it's about people. Whether it costs (Obama) votes or not, I think it's the right thing to do as a human being."

We're humans! We love being human. Go humans.

Cruise control

We don't know what to make of the June cover of W magazine: we get that it's a joke and Tom Cruise is in character for his upcoming heavy metal musical Rock of Ages, but we suspect he thinks he looks seriously hot here.

Inside, the actor talks about where he learned his Risky Business dance moves, which he puts to good use in the new film. "I did the scene from Risky Business around the house," he tells the magazine. "I would sing Bob Seger — my mother worked, my sisters were out, and I'd turn the music up. I learned how to dance watching Soul Train. I noticed that if a guy could dance, he'd get a lot of attention and girls would want to dance with him. I worked very hard at imitating those moves."

John Travolta

Private Travolta trial set to be 'one hell of a fight'

While John Travolta's second accuser won't be facing the star in a public trial, the lawyer representing him doesn't want people to think they won't be putting up a fight. "I want a full trial with a private judge," Okorie Okorocha tells People magazine in response to reports the case may be heading into mediation. "There is no mediation. There'll never be a settlement. I want privacy for sex crime victims. It looks like (Travolta's attorney Marty Singer) wants one hell of a fight."

Charlize Theron over the moon about becoming a mom

Charlize Theron admits that everything in her life has changed since adopting a baby boy, Jackson, in March.

"It's strangely everything that you've hoped for and it feels so right. I don't know how else to say it," Theron tells E! News.

"I feel like I can't remember anything prior to him. I feel like it was always just meant to be what it is."

Charlize Theron ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Jessica Alba

Jessica Alba didn't always like the spotlight

While Jessica Alba is comfortable with her public image now, it wasn't always so easy, she admits — especially back in her Dark Angel days.

"I had a show that premiered when I was 19. And right away, everyone formed a strong opinion about me because of the way I was marketed. I was supposed to be sexy, this tough action girl. That's what people expected," she tells Marie Claire magazine.

"I felt like I was being objectified, and it made me uncomfortable. I wanted to be chic and elegant!"

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5 top boutique hotels in Mexico

Want a beach vacation but can't stand the thought of staying at a mega-resort? In Mexico, you don't have to. Getting Canadians away from crowded beaches and watered-down fruity drinks is Sylvie Laitre's specialty. The director of Mexico Boutique Hotels lives in Puerto Vallarta and has spent 15 years travelling the country looking for hidden gems that offer privacy and tranquility. Here are her Top 5 picks:

DAWN CUTHBERTSON
life@metronews.ca

1 Casa de Mita

Location: Punta de Mita, a 45-minute drive from the Puerto Vallarta airport.

Description: With just eight rooms on the property, guests who visit this all-inclusive beachfront property rave about the chef's creations and attentive staff. Each room has a private balcony facing the Pacific Ocean and there are endless activities to enjoy, from getting a massage to playing a round of golf.

Price: $565-$895 per night.

Travel tip: This adults-only resort is so popular it has repeat guests, so book early.

2 Playa Escondida

Location: Sayulita, a one-hour drive from the Puerto Vallarta airport.

Description: Peaceful, quirky and secluded. Those are the words most people who've stayed here use to describe the resort — almost all also include 'amazing'. Lush with vegetation, this property caters to adventurous Canadians who like the idea of staying in the jungle and having spectacular beach and ocean views.

Price: $150-$400 per night.

Travel tip: The showers for some rooms are outside, but still private, and most people say it just adds to the charm of the property.

3 Capella Ixtapa

Location: A 20-minute drive from the Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo airport.

Description:
Nestled on the side of a rocky cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, this 59-suite property is known for its stunning architecture. Guests love that there's a private plunge pool in every room. Trip Advisor reviewers rank it number one out of 25 hotels in Ixtapa.

Price: $275-1,350 per night

Travel tip: This property does not have a beach to laze on all day, but there are two pools, including one that's salt-water.

4 Viceroy Riviera Maya

Location: Playa Xcalacoco, about 20 minutes from Playa del Carmen. Fly into Cancun.

Description: Popular among honeymooners and couples, this property is luxurious, romantic and the perfect place to celebrate a major milestone. Guests rave about the spa, where you can get an ancient Mayan massage or a body treatment where hibiscus flowers are used to encourage radiance and energy back into your skin.

Price: $605-$2,720 per night.

Travel Tip: Most reviewers on Trip Advisor find the food and wine to be expensive. Be prepared to splurge.

5 Villas Flamingos

Location: Isla Holbox, about three hours north of the Cancun airport.

Description: This funky eco-friendly resort is the exact antithesis of the debauchery that goes on in Cancun. A property that caters to families and couples, guests can stay in suites, a bungalow or rent the island's only beach house. The laid-back atmosphere encourages relaxation and you can walk almost anywhere barefoot.

Price: $107-$497 per night. Includes breakfast for two.

Travel tip: This property is one of a few in the world that can take you swimming with whale sharks.

Travel in brief

Skrillex to lead train tour

Grammy-winning dubstep DJ Skrillex will be exploring a different kind of track this summer as he leads a group of electronic artists on a tour through Canada on a private passenger train. The tour will also feature performances by buzzy Montreal artist Grimes, Philadelphia DJ Diplo and Colorado's Pretty Lights. The cross-country trek will kick off on July 13 in Toronto with stops in Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver. The idea was inspired in part by the famous Festival Express tour in the '70s, which saw the likes of Janis Joplin, the Grateful Dead and the Band traverse a similar route across the country. Skrillex — whose real name is Sonny Moore — won three Grammys this past February, including best dance recording. "We were really inspired when Mumford and Sons and Edward Sharpe and those guys did a train tour," Moore said in a release. "We wanted to do it as well and share this music with people across Canada. Just to do it and have fun."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

New photo exhibition reveals the early days of Bono and U2, documenting the band's gritty origins in 1970s Dublin

Skills stretch?

Write your resumé with caution

WORKPLACE LAW
Daniel Lublin
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Lying on your resumé can get you fired — or at least land you in very hot water. That is what Yahoo and its current CEO Scott Thompson learned last week when it was widely reported that he did not earn the computer science degree that his resumé claimed.

According to Thompson, an executive search firm added the degree to his resumé years ago and when it wrote his public biography, the story just stuck there.

Studies reveal that resumé falsification is actually a common event. Statistics suggest that as many as fifty per cent of all resumés contain some degree of distortion — from white lies to outright whoppers. So where will courts draw the line?

A few years ago "Doctor" Richard Clark applied for a job as a consultant with Coopers & Lybrand. In his application for the job, he represented that he had a PhD in applied mathematics, which helped him land the job.

Coopers sent a memo to all staff welcoming "Doctor" Clark and it distributed his credentials as part of business pitches to earn more work. However, a few years later, Coopers learned that Clark did not hold this degree and fired him immediately, arguing he would have never been hired had the firm known the truth about his resumé.

Clark sued but later lost, as both a trial judge and the Ontario Court of Appeal concluded that Clark could not benefit from his own wrongdoing.

Lying about academic qualifications is an extreme example. More often employees explain prior terminations for performance as "restructuring" just as they will find an excuse to avoid proffering their former boss as a reference. Neither of these explanations are technically true and most of the time they go unchecked.

In order for these types of lies to amount to cause for dismissal, it must be shown that the employer based its decision to hire, in part, on those statements.

The law implies that not every act of dishonesty can lead to termination. Often, context can come before content and a mere error in judgment can be overlooked. However, when it comes to a resumé, it's still best to stick to the truth.

'What I meant to say was...'

"Studies reveal that resumé falsification is actually a common event. Statistics suggest that as many as fifty per cent of all resumés contain some degree of distortion — from white lies to outright whoppers. So where will courts draw the line?"

DANIEL A. LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN. REACH HIM AT DAN@TORONTO-EMPLOYEMENTLAWYER.COM AND FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @DANLUBLIN.

Jamie Oliver wants you

On May 19, the famous chef asks you to join his healthy-eating crusade, a.k.a. Food Revolution Day
'I'm not anti-burger or anti-pizza. I'm anti- shit food,' he says

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Chef Jamie Oliver has devoted his career to fighting unhealthy eating — and you can see why: Global obesity has more than doubled since 1980. Each year, 2.8 million adults around the world die as a result of being overweight.

On Saturday May 19, the British TV star launches his latest effort, Food Revolution Day, a global campaign that asks you to think about eating right: host a food event serving organic foods, or a locally-sourced dinner party, or start a campaign at work or school.

Check out foodrevolutionday.com for more ideas and events in your city.

Here's Oliver on why you should join the movement:

The obesity crisis: How did we end up here?

The main issue is the Western diet: it's single-handedly more responsible for damage to global health than anything else. In so many Western countries, we have three generations of people who were never taught how to cook at home. Both parents were at work, food education at school is so shit, they can't learn there. I've been in houses where kids only hydrate on fizzy drinks and show no interest in tap water. And technology, freezing techniques and processed foods have only made things worse.

Will the world ever get healthy again?

I actually think that multinationals and fast-food companies are the best people to lead the change. If they chose to get behind healthy eating, they would do a better job than any other government or individual. If you thought the oil and petrol industry was complicated and causing wars, think again. The food industry is on another level. The problem is the corruption between food industries and governments. We need to address smaller issues like chicken farming or pink slime. Stop these products from ever being registered. How f—ing dare they?

And how will the Food Revolution Day help?

I'm not anti-burger or anti-pizza; I'm anti- shit food. With Food Revolution Day, I'm trying to get as many people as possible to stir the pot. We all need to become a little fussier about what we put in our gobs [mouths].

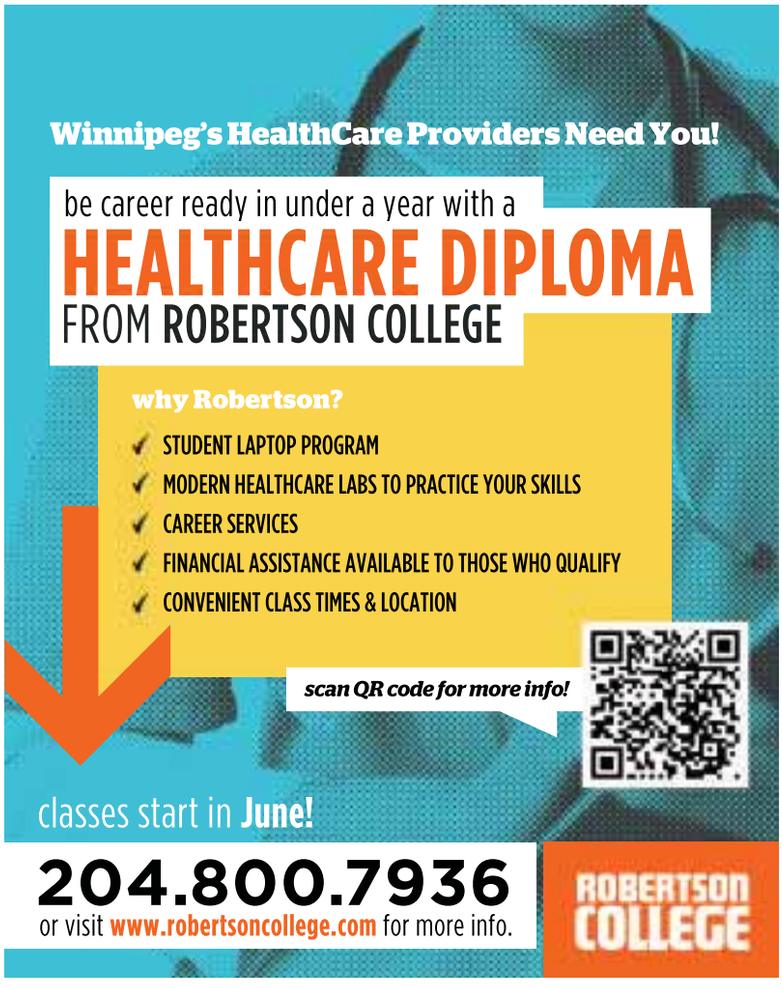
When you put something in your mouth, it's a very personal thing that affects you straight away.

We would eat anything this man served us. DAVID LOFTUS

Jamie's Vegetarian Chili

Full of bright vegetables and bold flavours, this healthy dish is worth the chopping

- Make it tonight. metronews.ca/food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MLB

Jays flip their lids to cap loss to Rays

Sean Rodriguez led off the seventh with a home run and the Tampa Bay Rays scored two more unearned runs in the inning to complete a two-game sweep of the Toronto Blue Jays with a 4-3 victory on Tuesday.

Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 11th save but not without some controversy. Brett Lawrie threw his helmet in disgust and it bounced and struck umpire Bill Miller after a called third strike for the second out of the ninth.

Miller ejected Lawrie and manager John Farrell from the game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cycling

Hesjedal loses lead at Giro

Spanish rider Joaquin Rodriguez took the overall lead in the Giro d'Italia from Canadian Ryder Hesjedal on Tuesday after winning the 10th stage in a sprint finish.

Hesjedal was only six seconds behind in sixth place, but Rodriguez moved ahead of him thanks to a 20-second time bonus for the stage victory.

"Hats off to Purito," Hesjedal said in an email to The Canadian Press, referring to Rodriguez' nickname. "His team was incredibly strong and they took the initiative riding all day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joaquin Rodriguez gets a kiss after the 10th stage on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Kreider celebrates his goal against the New Jersey Devils Monday at Madison Square Garden in New York. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Rangers determined to buck recent trend

NHL. New York has yet to win Game 2 at home these playoffs

For the third straight series, the New York Rangers are basking in the glow of a 1-0 lead earned in the confines of "The World's Most Famous Arena."

The Eastern Conference's top-seeded team has failed in its first two attempts to double that edge at Madison Square Garden. Given a third shot against the New Jersey Devils, the Rangers are determined to make the most of home-ice advantage in Game 2 of the East finals on Wednesday night.

The Rangers held an optional practice Tuesday at their home rink, the site of a 3-0 win in Game 1 on Monday.

The teams slogged through two periods, and New York admittedly wasn't at its best coming off its second straight seven-game series. But the Rangers scored three times in the third period and rode their defence and the goaltending of Henrik Lundqvist to victory.

"I don't know about escaped," Rangers captain Ryan Callahan said of the win. "We've got to be better. We know that. We've got areas in the game that we need to improve on and we need to work on. We'll be ready for tomorrow."

While no one in the Rangers room could put a finger on what went wrong in Game 2 losses to Ottawa and Washington, New York voiced a determination to break the trend in which it alternated wins and losses through the first four games of the opening two rounds.

The Rangers went win-one-lose-one through all seven games against Washington. New Jersey won four straight against Philadelphia after losing the opener, to end that second-round series in five games. The Devils came back from a 3-2 deficit in the first round against Florida.

A two-game lead could do wonders for the Rangers, if for no other reason than to give the team a mental break from the constant pressure.

The Devils, who had five days off between the second and third rounds, would be happy to take a 1-1 tie home for Game 3 on Saturday.

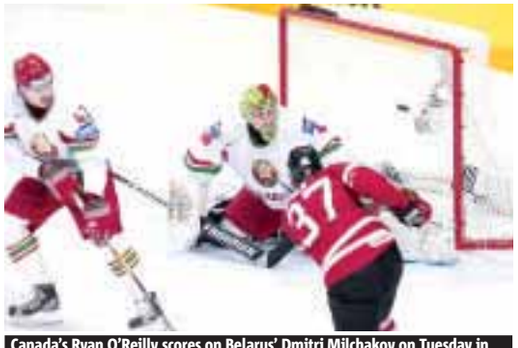
""You're down one game, and they have home-ice advantage," Devils coach Peter DeBoer said Tuesday. "We've been in this spot before. We know we can play better. Credit to them, they got the job done — found a way to get a win. Now it's on us to respond the right way."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tight playoffs

- Not only have the Rangers failed to take a 2-0 lead, but they haven't held a two-game edge at any point of either series.
- The only time they have won two games in a row this post-season was when they rallied from a 3-2 hole and took Games 6 and 7 against Ottawa.

Canada ready to take medal round plunge



Canada's Ryan O'Reilly scores on Belarus' Dmitri Milchakov on Tuesday in Helsinki. HEIKKI SAUKKOMAA/LEHTIKUVA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So far, so good.

Canada set itself up with the best possible path into the medal round at the IIHF world hockey championship after clinching top spot in the Helsinki pool with a 5-1 victory over Belarus on Tuesday. It was an important step for a team that desperately wants to avoid a third straight early exit at the tournament.

"Our mindset changes now and we have to win the quarter-finals," said forward Jordan Eberle. "That's kind of been the back-breaker for us the last two years. We've played well in the pool games but we haven't brought it in the quarter-finals.

"This is an important game for us."

Canada has drawn a tough opponent for Thursday's do-or-die game in Slovakia, which won five straight games to finish the round robin. As a result, the Slovaks secured a spot in the 2014 Olympic tournament and now believe they have what it takes to win a medal here.

However, by winning its pool Canada, guaranteed that it won't see the powerhouse Russians before the gold-medal final.

Russia has beaten the Canadians four straight years at the tournament — eliminating them in the quarter-finals in 2010 and 2011 and edging them for gold in 2008 and 2009 — and has brought another Olympic-calibre team here. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"You don't get a trophy for winning the pool. It all counts in the games to come."

Jordan Eberle

4 SPORTS

NHL

Kings look to stamp authority on series

The Los Angeles Kings sought a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals after they dominated the Phoenix Coyotes in Game 1. Vist metronews.ca/sports for the results of Tuesday night's game.

On the web

The Staples Center in Los Angeles will easily be the busiest building in pro sports later this week as it hosts six playoff games in four days. Scan the code to find out how officials plan to solve the Kings, Lakers, Clippers puzzle.

Pacers steal home-court edge with 'smash-mouth' play

NBA. With the Heat missing one part of Big Three, Indiana grinds out win in Game 2

Game 2

Pacers	Heat
78	75

This does not sound like a winning formula. Miss 24 of 29 shots in one stretch, on the road. Watch an 11-point second-half lead turn into a deficit. Have your entire team get outscored by two players in the fourth quarter.

Somehow, it worked for the Indiana Pacers.

And with one part of the Big Three gone, the Miami Heat might have a very big problem.

David West scored 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and the Pacers took home-court advantage away from Miami by beating the Heat 78-75 in Game 2 of the teams' Eastern Conference semifinal series Tuesday night - after LeBron James and Dwyane Wade both came up short on key opportunities in the final minute.

"Defence and rebounding," Indiana coach Frank Vogel said. "We built this team, we started talking about smash-mouth basketball about winning the war in the trenches, and that's with defence and rebounding. That's what I grew up watching Eastern Conference basketball being like. We understand offence is going to come and go, especially like a great defensive team like these guys ... but we're pretty good too."

The series is tied at 1-1, with Game 3 in Indianapolis on Thursday night.

James scored 28 points for Miami and Wade finished with 24, though both failed to convert big chances late. James missed two free throws with 54.3 seconds left and Miami down one, and Wade was short on a layup that would have tied the game with 16 seconds remaining. Moments later, a few of the Pacers were leaping in celebration at midcourt of Miami's floor, something that Wade said was noticed afterward.

"The game is not lost or won with two free throws," James said. "But I definitely want to come through for my teammates. So I'll get an opportunity again. I know I'll be at the line again in that situation. Just go up and make 'em."

Miami was without Chris Bosh, who's sidelined indefinitely with a strained abdominal muscle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James, left, argues with Danny Granger Tuesday in Miami. MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Tale of two wives at Clemens trial

Brian McNamee testified Tuesday he saved medical waste after injecting Roger Clemens with steroids because his wife complained that McNamee was going to be the fall guy.

McNamee said his wife told him, "You're going to go down! You're going to go down! You're going to go down!"

McNamee, Clemens' former strength coach, has said he injected the seven-time Cy Young winner multiple times with steroids and human growth hormone.

He said his wife was giving him a "hard time every single day," after he told her about the injections, so he took a swab and cotton ball from a Clemens' steroid injection in 2001, put it in a beer can, and brought it home.

The waste collected is the physical evidence prosecutors are using against Clemens in his perjury trial. Clemens is accused of lying to Congress in 2008 when he denied using steroids or HGH.

McNamee said he stored the material in a FedEx box, first in a closet in his basement, then in a closet in his master bedroom.

Roger Clemens THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In his 2008 congressional deposition, McNamee said he kept the materials because he distrusted Clemens "to a degree."

McNamee, who testified Monday that he injected Clemens with steroids when they were with the Blue Jays in 1998, said Tuesday he resumed injecting him when they were reunited with the New York Yankees in 2000 and 2001.

According to McNamee, Clemens told him in 2000, "I'm ready to start up again. You have a guy, right?" McNamee turned to Kurt Radomski, who touted human growth hormone, as the "latest and greatest," and McNamee went back to check with Clemens.

"He said, 'Sure, get it,'" McNamee said.

McNamee said he injected Clemens with steroids that season, "no less than six, no more than 8 or 10" times, and HGH 10 to 20 times.

He also recounted injecting Clemens' wife, Debbie, with HGH, at her request in 2003. McNamee said that Clemens was present for the injection, while Clemens has said he was not.

According to McNamee, Debbie looked at her husband, and said, "I can't believe you're going to let him do this to me," and Clemens responded, "He injects me, why can't he inject you?"

McNamee said he felt "creepy," because it was his friend's wife. He said he would never have injected her without Clemens being present. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looking to Escape sedan life?

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

'Intelligent' AWD

The Escape's new "Intelligent" all-wheel-drive system is available on both turbocharged models. According to Ford, it continually assesses road conditions and driver inputs "about 20 times faster than the blink of an eye" and can shift up to 100 per cent of the available power to either the front or rear wheels for maximum grip.

Curve Control

The Escape is the first Ford to incorporate Torque Vectoring Control and Curve Control. The idea is to distribute the correct amount of power to each wheel when cornering so that the vehicle sticks to the intended path. A display screen keeps you informed as to where the power is being directed.

2013 Ford Escape

- **Type.** Four-door, front- /all-wheel-drive compact tall wagon.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (168); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (173); 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (237).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $23,000.

The only transmission available on the Escape is a six-speed automatic.

Engines

Ford has advanced powerplant choices and has done so without resorting to a V6 option. Base front-wheel-drive models run with a 168-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder, while front- and all-wheel-drive SE and SEL designations use a 173-horsepower 1.6-litre turbocharged "EcoBoost" four-cylinder.

Review. After 12 years, you had to know Ford's change was going to be huge

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

For the past 12 seasons, the Ford Escape has proven a popular choice with buyers of entry-priced wagons. In car terms, 12 years is a lifetime — or two lifetimes, even — so the arrival of a successor to one of the company's top sellers is way overdue.

With an impressive sales history on its side, it's important that the Blue Oval automaker get it right with the soon-to-arrive 2013 Escape.

According to Ford's own statistics, the Escape and its ilk are exactly the type of conveyance that many folks are contemplating for their next vehicle purchase.

Accordingly, the new Escape presents a clean-sheet design-and-content approach to satisfy the needs of multi-continent customers (it's called the Kuga in Europe and elsewhere).

The sleeker look is radically different from the outgoing Escape's boxiness, which would otherwise mean a reduction in interior room. But with slightly larger dimensions overall, including an extra seven centimetres between the front and rear wheels, the result is greater rear-seat room plus slightly more passenger and cargo volume with the back seat in place or folded flat.

The Escape's "world-car" approach should play well in North America where most vehicles in its class look more like tall passenger cars.

Given the highly competitive small utility category with the likes of the Hyundai Tucson, Mazda CX-5 and Kia Sportage, the Escape's advanced mechanicals and handsome looks should keep it relevant for at least another dozen years.

And with a $23,000 base price, it's new style and technology that's affordable.

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

Go fetch it

Here's an item that all pickup-truck owners — or owners of full-size sport utility vehicles for that matter — should keep with them at all times. Having the lightweight aluminum EZ-Retriever II from Agri-Cover Inc. on hand allows you to reach those items that, whether intentionally or not, are positioned at the far end of the bed. Instead of climbing into the box (made all the worse if you have a tonneau cover), the 150-centimetre-long extendible device allows you to snag those hard-to-reach items and drag them to the gate. And by reversing the process, you can push loads to the back of the bed from the tailgate. Pick one up for $20 US from ezretriever2.com. WHEELBASE

On the Web

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Last-gen RDX was flexible, fun to drive

Second Gear.
2007 to 2012
Acura RDX

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

Sporty, agile and packing Acura's patented SH-AWD system, the RDX was a premium compact crossover sport ute that was heavy on the "sport." Competing with the Audi Q5, Infiniti EX and others, the RDX boasted five-passenger seating, a flexible cabin and a laundry-list of must-have gadgets.

With suspension and chassis calibrations intended for driving pleasure over all-out comfort, the RDX was a machine that intended to connect with the enthusiast.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Common Issues

The RDX should be inspected for signs of leakage from the transmission, torque converter seal and rear differential.

Since the RDX is equipped with a turbocharger, shoppers are advised to check for any signs of smoke, either at start-up or after a drive. This could indicate that the turbocharger is wearing out. Note that this component may be pricey to replace, but should last the life of the vehicle if frequent oil changes are carried out. Note that any transmission-related issues with jerkiness, rough shifting or "slippage" could be caused by a poorly-charged battery or bad sensor. If you note any issues with gear shifting, be sure to have the transmission and associated electronics inspected by a mechanic.

Engine

All models got a 2.3-litre VTEC Turbo four-cylinder engine producing 240 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft of torque. A paddle-shiftable five-speed automatic was standard.

What Owners Like

Performance, handling, style and overall value were highly rated by Acura RDX owners.

Flexible, all-season utility and confident traction in virtually every situation were also noted.

What Owners Dislike

Small rear seats, fuel mileage and a rough ride on some surfaces were the most common complaints of the RDX.

Verdict

The RDX looks like a fairly reliable used crossover buy that should readily impress active, family-minded driving enthusiasts. A dealer-serviced model with a mechanical thumbs-up is your safest bet.

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S.H.I.E.L.D. agency depends on superhero power — and Acuras

In the spotlight.
Automaker getting some serious exposure in films like The Avengers

MICHAEL GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

Don't you just hate it when supervillains from other worlds descend upon New York City? The mess! The congestion! The cancellation of sporting and cultural events! The difficulty in hailing a cab! And how about the looming possibility of Earth's annihilation?

So thank heavens for S.H.I.E.L.D., the international peacekeeping agency of the Marvel Comics Universe.

With Nick Fury running the show, and its crack team of operatives and scientists, the agency is well equipped to take care of extraterrestrial incidents.

When things get really hairy, as it did in New York recently, Fury is even able to call upon the services of The Avengers, a disparate but effective band of superheroes.

But let's talk about the cars and trucks used by S.H.I.E.L.D. They're all Acura vehicles — MDX and ZDX crossovers, and TL sedans. Did anybody else notice this?

Your investigative reporter certainly did, and was determined to find out how and why Acura was so entrenched with S.H.I.E.L.D. To that end, we immediately requested an interview with Nick Fury, but he was unavailable (something about being buried in script development on a project called Snakes on a Plane, the Prequel).

But we did manage to talk to David Gardner, vice-president of marketing and sales for Acura Canada. Turns out that Acura America struck a promotional and marketing deal with Marvel Studios, and the deal actually goes back to the Iron Man II film.

Acura is in the midst of launching several new products with the new brand tagline, "When man and machine connect, extraordinary happens."

According to Gardner, a continued association with Iron Man seemed like a no-brainer, considering that the heavy-metal superhero is man-machine exaggerated and glorified.

In addition to the timing and Iron Man content, The Avengers is all about excitement, another element that Acura wants to incorporate into its revised brand promise.

"If you watch that movie, there is no way you can say that wasn't an exciting event," says Gardner. "Excitement, emotion, engagement are what we're after at Acura."

He notes that Acura's excitement and emotional appeal has been a little lacking of late, because of its increased dependence on SUVs and crossovers, which now make up about 56 per cent of overall sales volume.

"What really builds brand image in premium segments are the sedans and the sports sedans," says Gardner.

So get ready for more focus on sporting sedans from Acura, starting with the all-new entry-level ILX this spring, and the new RLX flagship sedan next spring.

And about 36 months away is the ultimate sporting-premium Acura — the mid-engine supercar known as NSX. Although only shown in concept form so far, a convertible version made a cameo appearance at the very end of the movie, with Tony Stark in the driver's seat.

Acura's latest new vehicle, the redesigned RDX crossover, also makes a cameo appearance.

We could tell you when and where exactly, but we won't. Because the only thing worse than super-aliens destroying your afternoon in New York is breaching movie-spoiler etiquette.

Actor Robert Downey Jr., a.k.a. Iron Man, arrives at The Avengers premiere in a convertible version of the Acura NSX concept. ACURA

Samuel L. Jackson, who plays Nick Fury in The Avengers, is pictured with a militarized Acura MDX at The Avengers premiere. ACURA

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Crossword

Across

1 Computer acronym
4 Roe provider
8 Admitting air
12 Lawyers' org.
13 Lyricist's subject
14 Humdinger
15 Hat maker
17 Handle
18 Pack of cards
19 Zoo structures
20 Enthusiast, and then some
22 Centrifuge insert
24 Protuberance
25 Easy chair
29 Work with
30 Spot on TV?
31 Commotion
32 "Ich bin ein —"
34 Goblet feature
35 Coop collection
36 Down East
37 Toes' woes
40 Picasso contemporary
41 Settled down
42 Youngman joke
46 Stereo set
47 Jack Benny interjection
48 Shock partner
49 Yule refrain
50 Oodles
51 Guided

Down

1 Aries
2 Sapporo sash
3 Seasickness
4 Glossy
5 Gridlock noise
6 "Hail, Caesar!"
7 Aachen article
8 Acid neutralizer
9 Freud cohort
10 Shaving-cream additive
11 Abrades
16 Bound
19 Ump's announcement
20 Blooper
21 Stratagem
22 Irritates
23 Torte topper
25 Pugilists' arena
26 Countrywide
27 Paradise
28 Appian Way terminus
30 Pen pals?
33 Soup legume
34 Rani's garment
36 Factories
37 Songwriter Sammy
38 Medley
39 Abundant
40 Dissolve
42 Pussycat's partner
43 Ultra-modernist
44 Mate of 1-Down
45 Roulette bet

Sudoku

3			1		2			7
	6		3		7		9	
		7				8		
		3	6		5	1		
7								9
		2	4		9	5		
		5				3		
	7		5		6		4	
9			2		8			1

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	4	6	5	7	9	2	3
7	5	9	3	2	4	1	8	6
3	6	2	1	8	9	5	7	4
5	9	8	7	3	2	6	4	1
4	3	6	9	1	8	7	5	2
1	2	7	5	4	6	8	3	9
6	4	1	2	7	5	3	9	8
2	7	3	8	9	1	4	6	5
9	8	5	4	6	3	2	1	7

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

ZP RPPWXZMRXQ GWMWT, R RGZKRPQ AWL'J PQQJ K TQZM QPKRPQ-LRMA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE MY FATHER REALLY LOVES LICKING ENVELOPES, PEOPLE OFTEN LIKE TO CALL HIM A SEALING FAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals N

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Weather

JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6 AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: 24° MIN: 7°	MAX: 28° MIN: 14°	MAX: 26° MIN: 14°

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. No matter how big the challenge, you will emerge victorious.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Whatever you turn your hand to today will work out better than you expected.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Someone who does not want to see you succeed will try to talk you out of attempting something that could boost your reputation. Don't let them.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. This is going to be a busy day for you – you will be rushing here, there and everywhere trying to get it all done. Set yourself a time deadline.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. You may have to get tough with someone who has let you down, but don't go too far and say things that might make it difficult for you to work together in future.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You will pull out all the stops to be the biggest and the best at what you do.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You can move either this way or that way today. But it has to be one or the other.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. A task you have to complete will be easier than you expected.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You won't lack for advice today – everyone wants to tell you what you should be doing – but if you are smart you will ignore it all and listen only to your own inner voice.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Pluto in your sign is energized by Mars today, which means you can't lose.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Some people will be shocked by how far you are prepared to go to get what you desire over the next 24 hours, but they shouldn't be.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Don't sit at home watching the world through your window or, worse, your television screen.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"I wish mom would stop with the Princess Leia fantasy."
John

LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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